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yn Dortch

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mmanications Commission

he Secretary

treet, SW

in, DC 20554

s to Request for Appeal/Waiver

: Galveston Independent School District

1339

Year: 2006

Application Number: 495787

Request Numbers: 1394796, 1394809, 1394818, 1394857, 1394894, 1394909,

1452998

et No. 2-06 and CC Docket No. 96-45

ynne Cleveland, Superiotendent

alveston ISD

904 Ауглас Т.

alveston, Texas 77550

109) 766-5121

09) 766-5106 (Fax)

umber of Pages Faxed: 77

ET: Cover plus pages 1-16 SET: Cover plus pages 17-32 SET: Cover plus pages 33-51

H SET: Cover plus pages 52-77

Lyane Claritud, Superintendent

O. Box 650 - Crivestoc, Texas 77553 - (805) 766-5100 (Office) - 409-766-5106 (Pax)



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2007

for Appeal/Waiver Dortch Communications Commission f the Secretary Street, SW gon, DC 20554

ins to

nt: Galveston Independent School District

41339 Year: 2006

'1 Application Number: 495787

Request Numbers: 1394796, 1394899, 1394818, 1394857, 1394894, 1394909,

, 1452998

ket No. 2-06 and CC Docket No. 96-45

. Dorich,

Independent School District (have after called GISD) respectfully requests an appeal/waiver to C Relas requiring a signed agreement or Letter of Agency (LOA) for consultants utilized by as-tity, as determined by the USAC.

twol z letter from USAC dated April 26, 2007, detying GISD's appeal of USAC's funding an decision letter do ed August 15, 2006. In this letter, USAC denied GISD's request for B-Rete \$417,281.47 for the year 2005 based upon the dolumination that GISD violated competitive quirements of the PCC. USAC perceived these to be a fithing on the part of GISD to have a signed agreement to place fin the USAC states in its er that "The Origin Group" seted as a consultant without aigning an a greenment. Its decision further hat "PCC Rules requires that PCC Forms 470 and 471 be signed by a person authorized to order urications and other supported services for eligible equities and to cartify under path to all the extifications." Consequently, the funding requests were denied for violation of the competitive gairemenu."

eves that USAC has origin terpreted FCC Rules by requiring that any consultant that provides on a digible early is required to beve a signed LOA, when the consultant does not sign, sutherize, OC Rems 470 and 471 and does not assist the applicant in any marner with the competitive grineraant process.

Lynne Cleveland, Separintendoot

O. Box 660 - Galvaston, Texas 77550 · (409) 766-5100 (Office) -409-766-5106 (Fax)

t regarding "Consultant Letter of Agency" as documented on the USAC web site are as follows:

'A consultant or anyone signing as the traborized person who is not a school or library amployee should also have as LOA from the applicant expressly authorizing the consultant of sepresent the applicant." (See Exhibit B-1 ampha) have been

um, the "Sample Lester of Agency (LOA)" news release provided to applicants by the USAC on the Exhibit B-2 extended bareto) states:

A Leiter of Agency demonstrates the authorization of the person (on PCC forces, the Authorized Person") to sign an PCC form on both! I of one or name cligible schools and/or Dranes. Generally, two situations require to LOA or similar authorizing forcement:

.... (2) A consultant—or anyone signing as the authorized person who is not a school or library employee—should have an LOA from the applicant expressly authorizing the consultant to represent the applicant.

and agree that a consultant agreement or LOA is required when the consultant is not the authorized order telecommunications and other supported entrices for the eligible entity and to cartify under the required certifications. Additionally, the consultant utilized in an advisory capacity by GISD in Group) was not authorized to sign, sufferize, or certify FCC forces 470 and 471 on behalf of in fact, did not sign, sufferize, or certify FCC forces 470 and 471 or behalf of CISD during the Ecycle.

KSD's application 470 member 19194000561722 and Form 471 application number 495787 for untiling year 2006, was prepared, enviewed and signed by Nursio Accidianora, a GISD employed, the served as Director of Punchasing for the District. Gee Baltichi Cattade hereto indicating Mr. reddiencero's employment stant, Ethibit D attached hereto of the certification pages for Ferms 470 and 471 for funding year 2006, signed and restified by Nr. Arcificacco.) bris Webber, a GISD employee, who served as Director of MIS, was named as the contact persuates who discussed 470 and 471. (See Eshibit "E" attached indicating Mr. Webber's employment above with GISD and attenting to the fact that Christopher C Webber, GISD's employee, is not this topher R Webber, a consultant out of the state of Oklahoma).

e district, were suthorized to order telecommunications and other supposed services for GISD and are subtraized to excitly under eath to all the FCC required centifications. correspondence scal to USAC or 5721, is response to USAC's question as follower to SR-2006-1339, regarding GISD's are of a consultant, SSE Rabible February attached), GISD states that the rigio Group provided the following services for E-Rate funding year 2006:

- a provided recommendations to GISD for eligible services.
- assisted GISD in preparing information ascessary to complete Forms 47d.
- assisted GISD in parpeting information and required documentation for completion Forms 471
- te Origin group never took any official action related to B-Rate on behalf of GISD.

s, POC rules, as detailed on the USAC website regarding the Competitive Bidding Process, state:

"The compositive bidding process must be fair and open. "Fair" means that all bidders are treated the same and that no bidder has advance knowledge of the project information. "Open" means there are no secrets in the process.... The Form 470 should be dear about the products, services, and quantities the applicant is seeking....

The rate gots on to further say ... a conflict of interest exists when the applicant's consultant is associated with a service provider that is salected and in involved in determining the services sought by the applicant and the selection of the applicant's ervice providers." (See Exhibit G attached bareto)

JUN 2 5 2007

ω

Thus, GISD assets the following:

- GISD followed all PCC and State compositive inciding sequire nearly in the filling of its requests for E-rate services for 2006. At no time did the Only is Group assist GISD in the compositive bidding process (See Exhibit H., portion related to compositive hidding of SR-2006-14139), GISD response submitted May 19, 2015 attached hereto)
- Origin Group was never authorized to represent GISD in any of the competitive bidding
- transactions of in any other metter relating to E. Rate applications.

 Origin Group does not represent a service provider and is not a service provider and, therefore, dress not cross a conflict of interest in determining the services rought by the applicant and the selection of the applicant service providers. (See Exhibit 1, letter from the Origin Group dated July 21, 2017, stached hereto)

SUMMARY: GISD'S REQUEST FOR APPEAL/WAIVER

- (1) It is the position of GISD that PCC rules are embiguous as to the requirement to have a Letter of Agency in an instance where the consultant plays only a ministance rule in the B-Ramapp harison process.
- (3) CHSD acknowledges feature did not have a signed agreement with the Origin Group for 2006 I-Rest year. CHSD further asserts that a signed agreement is not necessary. CHSD also asserts that the Origin Group only asset as an advisor and did not represent us in any official capacity. (2) USAC's actions were confusing in not eaking specific questions with respect to the exact role the Origin Geoup played it GISO's 2006 E-Ruse application. During the \$3:-2005-141399 and followup phase, USAC til not ask if Origin Group was the signer of our application or was a service provider.
- (4) Additionally, the Origin Group is not a service provider and does not provide E-Rate elliphic services. Thus, CESD assects that competitive bidding requirements were not violated and there was no attempt to definant the government.
- (5) USAC's documentation never specifically refers to an LOA being required when a consultant simply serves in an advisory capacity to an applicant. GISD findles points out that State E-Rate Coordinators function also in an advisory capacity to applicants.

in the street CIED has been mistaken in its intropression of five requirement for at LOA in all instances, then GIED respectfully repress the FOC to wrive this LOA requirement, as it pertains to GIED's application for 2006 B-Rate funding

Contact Name: Amold Proctor, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations

Address: P.O. Box 660, Galveston, Texas 77553

409-766-5127

Arnold_Proctor@gisd.org

Cynne Cleveland

Superintendent

Ä

409-766-5106

Email:

Telephone:

Exhibit A



Universal Service Administrative Company Schools & Libraries Division

Administrator's Decision on Appeal - Funding Year 2016-2087

26, 20D7

Webber ston Independent School District 4 veno: T ton, TX 77550

hppliczn: Name: Billed Entity Number:

141339 495787

form 471 Application Number: Ponding Request Number(s):

1394796, 1394809, 1394818, 1394857, 1394894,

GALVESTON INDEP SCHOOL DIST

1394909, 1394918, 1452998

Your Correspondence Received: April 12, 2007

thorough review and investigation of all relevant facts, the Schools and Libraries on (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its on in regard to your appeal of USAC's Funding Year 2006 Funding Commitment on Letter for the Application Number indicated above. This letter explains the nfUSAC's decision. The date of this letter begins the 60 day time period for ing this decision to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If your of Appeal included more than one Application Number, please note that you will e a separate letter for each application.

iz Request Number(s):

1394796, 1394809, 1394818, 1394857, 1394894,

1394909, 1394918, 1452998

da on Appeal:

Denved

netion:

After thorough review of the appeal and the relevant facts and documentation, it was determined that a consultant was used for the preparation of the Form; 470 and completion of the Forms 471, but Oxlveston Independent School District failed to provide a consultant agreement or Letter of Agency. On May 19, 2006, the District submitted documentation which stated the District did not have a signed consultant agreement of Letter of Agency. The Reviewer sent additional follow up questions on May 23, 2006, asking the District to submit a signed copy of the consulting agreement and list the services rendered by the consultant. In response to the request for further clarification, the District stated that the consultant assisted with the completion of the Forms 470 and Forms 471.

Ber 125 - Correspondence Unit, 83 Sout Jefferton Road, Whippery, New Jersey 97981 Visit us collect: www.stur/esasserice.org

According to documentation submitted to USAC, The Origin Group acted as a consultant without signing an agreement with the District. Consequently, the funding requests were denied for violation of the competitive hidding requirements. On appeal you submitted a copy of a consulting agreement between Galvestan School District and The Drigin Group. Program rules do not permit USAC to accept new information on appeal except where an applicant was not given an opportunity to provide information during the initial review or an error was made by USAC. Therefore, the appeal is denied.

FCC Rules require that FCC Forms 470 and 471 be signed by a person authorized to order telecommunications and other supported services for the eligible entities and certify under each to all the required certifications. 47 C.P.R. secs. 54.504(b)(2), 54.504(e)(1). The authorized person carrifles on the Form 470 and Form 471 that he or she is the person authorized to submit and certify to the accuracy of the applications. See Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Description of Services Requested and Certification Form 470, OMB 3060-0806, Block 5 and Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Services Ordered and Certification Form 471, CMB 3060-0805, Block 6. Consultants or other aignore who are not employees of the Billed Entity must have a Letter of Agency from the applicant affirming that they are authorized to represent the applicant. See Instructions for Completing the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Services Ordered and Certification Form (FCC Form 471), OMB 3050-0806 and the Reference Area at our website, www.usec.org/sl. Additionally, the PCC has stated that, if consultants are involved, beneficiaries must retain signed copies of all written agreements with E-rate consultants. See Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism, CC Docket No. 02-6, Fifth Report and Order and Order, 19 PCC Red 15808, 15824-26, PCC 04-190 para. 48 (rel. Aug. 13, 2004).

rappeal has been approved, but funding has been reduced or dealed, you may these decisions to either USAC or the FCC. For appeals that have been demied in artially approved, dismissed, or canceled, you may file an appeal with the FCC, needs refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC, appeal must be received or postmarked within 60 days of the date on this letter, et to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissed of your appeal. If you have this requirement will result in automatic dismissed of your appeal. If you have the following your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the arry, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options ing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found in the "Appeals Procedure". In the Reference Area of the SED section of the USAC website or by commetting tent Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing

ank you for your continued support, petience and cooperation during the appeal

is and Libraries Division rsal Service Administrative Company

01-05-02A08:26 RCVD

Bus 125 – Currespontance Dall, 80 Scuth Jefferson Road, Whippany, New Jersey C7981 Visitus culine st. warmatus/versesservice.com

Chris Webber Galveston Independent School District 3904 Avenue T Galveston, TX 77550

01-05-02AD8:20 RCVD

Billed Hraily Number: 141339
Form 471 Application Number: 495787
Form 485 Application Number:

Exhibit B-1



om fra Form 471 - the person whose signature appears in the Form 471 fam. 39 -centifes that he or she is the submit and certify to the about ady of the application. This passon must be authorized to represent any end all of discounts are sought in the funding requests featured on the application. During its review of the Form 471, ent no benutael as if the extension of the part of the part of the entities factorised and the entities factorised on the

ebishes this suthorization – and therefore, that establishes the reletionship between the authorized passon and otherform - is generally a Letter of Agency (LOC).

'Agency DA) is mast commonly signed by consortium mambars and kept on file by their consortium leader to verify that emberetip and participation in the consentum. Other vehicles to establish this authorization could be a project a lister agreement, or other similar ducument. The consontium LOA must be eighed and dated on ur before the our 471 certification of the date (1e form was certified online.

Agency

a signing as the authorized person who is not a school or library employee should also have an LOA from the thorizing the consultant to represent the applicant. The consultant LOA must be signed and dated before the that Consultant on your bahalf (such as filing the Form 470).

he document establishing the above authorization, it must contain all of the following:

person film; the application (the consorbun leader or consulant)

person sutherizing the filing of the application (the entity who will receive discounted services, such as a filer)

Hame fire LOA or authorizing document covers (for example, the E-Rate Fueding Year 2008) signature date, and title of an official who is an employee of the entity type is authorizing the filling of the entity who will receive discounted services, but his as communities member; for the covered by the LOA or authorizing document. The description of services can be as general as "at E-race" or it can be more negligible (e.g., "basic telephone service only").

e *of these authorizal* ons <u>canno;</u> be open ended, auch as "und ferminated by sither party."

ther description may be accepted as proof of sutherization. For example, for consortism applications, the per must either collect LOAs from each consentit in marrier or be able to provide some other proof that each new it was represented on the application. Consortia which have a statutory or regulatory basis and for which s or libraries is mandatory must be able to provide documentation supporting this certification, including copies alule or regulation

orizas a consolifum feacher to apply for discounted services on your behalf, them it must be signed and dated on date of the Form 471 periodection or the date the form was certified online. If the LOA authorizes a consultant hen it must be signed and disted before the test action is taken by that consultant on your behalf (such as filling

mple Letter of Agency (PDF, 37 KB) that can be used as a reference guide.

Last modified on \$/25/2007

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6/25/2007

Exhibit B-2



Universal Service Administrative Company

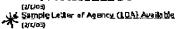
Schools and Ebraries

Home > Are a normal And Less > February 2005 Anneurosinoria

February 2005 Announcements

Please dick on the topic below to view the most recent announcements:

- Holiday Hours Announgement (February)
- 21) (1)15/05)
 SLD Provides Clarification for Eliqibility
- of Priority 1 Services (2/15/05) Invoice Improvement Update:
- Billing/Shipping Date Review (2/14/05)
- SPIN Support for Online filers (2/14/05)
 SLD Posts Improved Online Form 424
- SLD (93035 FY2005 Form 470 RNLs



- Miscellangous Updates to Web Site [2](105)
- · What's blew Archives.

Holiday Hours Announcement (February 21) (3/15/05)

Tim of Page

The Schools and Libraries Client Service Bureau will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2005 in observance of Presidents' Day. The Client Service Bureau will resume normal operations on Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. EST.

SUD Provides Clarification for Eligibility of Priority 1 Services (2/15/15)

Top of fact

The SLD has recently seen marketing efforts regarding video and other pervices in the Telecommunications and Internet Access categories that miscenstrue PCC eligibility requirements.

In the Telecommunications category of service, the FCC's Eligible Services Ust Indicates, in the listing for "Distance Learning Orcults," that "(f)ransmission services that provide (video or other) distance learning are eligible for discount." Some may have mistaken'y concluded that this statement indicates that any Distance Learning service is eligible, when in fact the statement is limited to eligibility for the transmission services that enable distance learning.

Since a full distance learning system may include components bayond the FCC's definition of a belecommunications service, applicants must use care that the costs of ineligible features have been removed when submitting funding requests.

In the Internet Access category of service, the FCC's Eligible Services List indicates that the Internet Access category of service is "limited to the provision of "basic conduit access" to the Internet." Some may have mistakenly concluded that Internet Access can Include functions that go beyond "basic conduit access" to the Internet, such as a direct exchange of data or vides between applicant sizes. Such condusions are incorrect. In the internet Access category of service, the SID will only fund services that are within FCC requirements for "casic conduit access" to the Internet. Fueding in this category will not be provided for transport of point-to-point connectivity of data, video, or voice applications that are to be provided only by digible telecommunications carriers.

Applicants are cautioned that funding requests for products and services that are ideligible should not be submitted. Any fundion requests that include a constriction of eligible and

ingligible components must be cost-allocated to remove ineligible features.

Invoice Improvement Update: Billing/Shipping Data Review (2/14/65)

Tox of Face

S_D has initiated an evaluation of the involce review process. The goal of this evaluation is to speed up the processing of involces without compromising program integrity. As SLD implements improvements to the involce review process, notice will be posted to this web site with "Involce Improvement Update" in the title. This is the first of these positings.

In the past, if the date for customer billing or shipping reported on a line in Column 11 of Column 12 on an FCC Form 474 (SPI Form) was

- hefore the start of the funding year,
- I before the service start date reported on the Form 485, or
- "after the close of the funding year and the last allowable date to invoice,

the invoice reviewer was required to contact the service provider, work through the discrepancy, and then verify receipt of the necessary documentation that supported compliance with program rules.

Under a recently-enacted change to the review process, if the billing or shipping date in a line item on a SPI Form does not comply with program rules, that line item will be dealed.

A line item denied for this reason will be featured on a remittance statement with the appropriate invoice error code. This line item may be submitted on a new SPI Form with the correct date.

If you have any questions, please contact the Client Service Bureau.

SPIN Support for Online Filers (2/34/05)

Ţq<u>r</u>nf₽aja

If you are still filing your Form 471, and are filing online, you must have a Service Provider Identification Mumber (SPIN) for each Funding Request in order to progress through Block 5 of the caline form. Filers who do not have a SPIN will receive a message as they extempt to complete the form directing them to call the Client Service Bureau (CSB) for assistance.

Please note that SPIII assistance is available for those online filers who have completed the competitive bidding process and selected their service providers, but whose service providers' SPIN assignment has not yet been completed. (Manual filers are able to provide either the service provider name or the SPIN is order to meeting Minimum Processing Standards.) The Item 21 strachment should clearly indicate the name of the service provider. Call the CSB toll-fine at 1-888-203-8100, and representatives will provide you this assistance. Remember that the CSB hours of service are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST.

SLD Posts Improved Online Form 474 (27/03)

Top of Peg:

SLD has posted an improved online Form 474. The information required on the form is the same as the previous version; however, the look and feet is samewhat different. The improved form has more functionality and is easier to use. Following is a summary of the changes:

Block 1, Item 7 - The total invoice amount is now an automatic calculation. This item will be automatically updated each time you complete a new fine in Block 2.

Save and Exit - You may now save your work and exit the system without submitting the Form 474. You may then return at a later time to complete and submit the form. To access an incomplete form, you will need the invoke number and security code that was supplied to you after you first completed Block 1. Once you have submitted a Form 474, you may not make any changes to that form. However, you may still view your Form 474 at any time

USING the imposes number and secontly caus-

Question/Problem – Click this button to submit a problem or comment about the Form 474 to the Client Service Bureau.

Print Preview - When you click the Submit button, the Print Preview function will display a cepy of your Form 474. You may print your form at any time using the Print Preview function.

Unlimited number of line items - You may new submit on unlimited no ober of line items.

Black 2 Line Item Summary – As you add each line item, the Block 2 total will be updated.

If you have any questions plague call the Client Service Bureau.

SLD Esques FY2003 Form 470 RNLs (2/1/2)

Top of Page

The SLD has begun to Issue Receipt Notification Letters for Funding Year 2005 Forms 470. These letters will be mailed in daily batches of about 5,830 per day, from January 31 through February 8, 2005.

You may view a Sample Form 470 Receipt Natification Letter [PDF] in the Reference Area of this web site.

Sample Letter of Agency (LOA) Available (2/1/95)

Ten-cá Pe

The SLD has posted a sample Letter of Agency (LOA) in the Reference Area of this web size.

A Letter of Agency demonstrates the authorization of the person (on FCC forms, the "Authorized Person") to sign an FCC form on behalf of one or more eligible schools and/or I braries. Generally, two situations require an LOA or similar authorizing document:

- Consortium members file a LOA with their consortium leader verifying their intowledge
 of their membership and participation in the consortium. The consortium leader must
 keep these latters on file.
- A consultant or enyone signing as the authorized person who is not a school or library employee — should have an LGA from the applicant expressly authorizing the coase tent to represent the applicant.

You can view the Sample Letter of Agency through the document <u>Letters</u> of Agency posted to the Reference Area of this web site.

Miscellaneous Updates to Web Site (2/1/85)

Traci Page

Following is a list of the documents or pages that have changed on this web size since the last posting on u_2dates :

A new link — Size Visits — has been orested in the right-hand column of the SID web pages. This link will take users to a new external web site that acts as a guide to the site visit process, with a description of the process, documentation needed, and contact information

The document Jism 21 Attachments for Form 421 has been updated to include optional information that applicants con include in their Item 21 attachments to reduce the I kelihood that Program Integrity Assurance will ask for that information during the application review process.

The document Cost Allocation Gridelines for <u>Products and Services that Contain Eligible and Institution</u> Companisms

has been updated to feature the correct telephone number for questions about cost allocation from service providers and manufacturers.

Content last McGreet: February 15, 2005

⊕ 1997-2005, Uriversal Svenice Adv ਅਖ਼ਾਰਿਸ਼ੇਅ Company, ਮੈਂ ਜਿਲ੍ਹੇਿਸ਼ ਵਿਲਵਾਵਕ Namel haby? You can confact us bot fine at \$480 ctpl-4000. Our hours of operation are BBN to 65'N, Eatlern Time, Norsiay fine of Frace, reacturate abuse report & to our Mahildoner Habbet.

6,25,2007

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Exhibit C



All children can and will learn.

, 2007

m It May Concern:

Arcidiacone was employed by Galvesten Independent School (GISD) from , 2001 through December 15, 2006. During this time, he served as Director hasing. He was authorized by GISD to conduct all competitive bidding and to sign and certify for GISD the 2006 E-Rate applications.

nt Superintendent for Business and Operations

Arnold Proctor, Assistant Superintendent for Besides & Operations

O. Box 660 - Galveston, Texas 77553 - (4(5) 766-5107 (Office) - 419-766-5186 (Exx)